Sino-Indian Border dispute

†553. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any rounds of negotiation with Chinese representatives to solve Sino-Indian border disputes;

(b) if so, the number of negotiation rounds held between March, 1998 to June, 2001 in this regard; and

(c) the area of disputed land on the border that has come to light so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Between March 1998 and June 2001, the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question has met twice in April 1999 and April 2000 and is scheduled to meet later this year. The India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials has met three times in November 1999, November 2000 and June 2001.

(c) China illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq kms of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh. China also continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq kms in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq kms of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

Indo-Nepal bilateral relations

554. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been some strains in Indo-Nepal bilateral relations during recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.